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"The Freedom to love whomever and however we want"

Pat Carroll Is Gertrude Stein

Joseph Wins Gay Professionals 2nd Annual William Award

BY ROD HENSEL

Joseph, best known in the Buffalo gay community as the owner of Me and My Arrow, was awarded the second annual "William Award" by Gay Professionals in a ceremony at the Park Lane Restaurant on October 23.

The award is presented annually to a person in the gay community to recognize outstanding contribution and achievement.

"At last I know what it means to be truly overwhelmed," said Joseph, in a misty-eyed acceptance speech. He labeled the event as "the most important day of my life."

The engraved, sterling silver bowl was presented to Joseph by Attorney William Gardner. Gardner was the first recipient of the award and members of Gay Professionals have since dubbed it "The William" in his honor. He noted Joseph's "great courage" in stepping forward and being open about his homosexuality to show that "Gays are good and decent people."

Gardner also called Joseph a role model not only for himself, but for all of Buffalo's gay community.

Joseph was chosen as the recipient by a three-member committee of Gay Professionals, which solicited nominations from area Gays. Hanford Searl, a member of the committee, said Joseph was selected for "raising consciousness in both the gay and straight worlds, participating in the Courier-Express series on homosexuals, and writing for the FIFTH FREEDOM newspaper."

He said the committee also noted "his many behind-the-scenes support of gay ventures, projects and aspirations during a trying personal time in his life."

Joseph is the treasurer for Gay Professionals and a member of the Board of Directors of the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier Inc. He also serves as G.P.'s chief media spokesperson.

In addition to opening Me and My Arrow early this year, he was involved in many of the planning activities for Gay Pride Fest '81, and has been involved in an ongoing effort to form a Gay Businessman's Association in Buffalo.

Joseph was one of five people nominated to the committee, according to Searl.

John Faulring Jr., editor of the FIFTH FREEDOM and president of Mattachine, was cited for his participation in the current lawsuit to overturn the state's loitering laws and support of gay community causes.

Ron Wojciechowski was nominated for his work in Mattachine, with alcoholics, the coalition effort for a gay community center, and his "personal stand to support both the gay men's and lesbian groups."

Gardner was nominated to receive the award a second time as a "courageous crusader" in gay legal matters for "awakening consciousness among religious groups."

Also nominated was a G.P. member for his "hospitality" to the organization and "constant encouragement to fellow gays in the community."

The committee also recognized the achievements of a number of others in the community, including Madeline Davis, Claude Gary, Bobbi Prebis, Ron Silverio and Tom Hammond.

About 100 people attended the ceremony, which was part of the third annual Gay Professionals banquet.

Our Cover: Pat Carroll As Gertrude Stein

Our cover this month is a photo of Pat Carroll as Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein. During her recent engagement here, she conducted an interview with us and gave us an opportunity to find out more about her, the play and attitudes that abound across the nation.

It was the only in depth interview granted while in Buffalo. The Fifth Freedom is proud to present it to you.

Lottery Tickets Can Win Money for Mattachine

Mattachine has joined in a program called *Cashback*, which utilizes lottery tickets that are not winners in the regular game. The tickets are entered in special drawings held periodically and can mean funds to help support our work.

If you have any tickets please send them to us c/o the paper. Or you can purchase them at Cornucopia, 569 Delaware at Allen, and just leave the losers with them. Thanks!

by John A. Faulring, Jr.

Pat Carroll is three times a lady.

During her recent run of Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein, *The Fifth Freedom* had the pleasure of interviewing her after her opening night performance.

We had requested to have an interview with her in a letter welcoming her to Buffalo. Her producer called to say that it would be possible and the item was set.

When we arrived, albeit nervous, we were greeted by a very friendly and bubbly Pat Carroll and the producer of the show, Mary Ellyn Devery. In no time at all we were in the middle of a delightful conversation. I won't say interview, as it was a relaxed chat and was very informal and informative.

Ms. Carroll was very impressed by the professionalism that she had experienced opening night at The Studio Arena Theater by the entire staff. "It's so important to have good people out front to warm the people up for you," she said, "The staff was on top of everything and made my job a lot easier."

She was happy with her opening night, except for some persistent coughers that bothered her. "It sounded like a TB ward. You just wanted to throw them a cough drop or tell them to go get a drink." Apparently they were afraid of missing part of the show. Other than that her opening night was uneventful.

After having followed her tour of the country in the gay press, we had quite a few questions for her about her experiences in presenting the play.

FF: Have you had any problems with the Moral Majority around the country, with the underlying homosexual overtones in the play?

Carroll: "We have played all over the country, even in the deep South Bible belt and have had no problems with pickets or protesters. Very few reviewers have even mentioned the overtones you mention. "(Editor's Note: *The Buffalo News* did mention the Lesbian affair between Stein and Alice B. Toklas in the review they ran of the play. Only the third time it had been so mentioned in all the performances.)" It really isn't a play about homosexuality, lesbians or being gay. It is a play about identity."

The "identity always" theme has even become the way she signs autographs. "Everyone has to find who they are and stay with it no matter what anyone thinks. In the play we talk about the 29th year and how Gertrude felt that had been the time she had discovered her own identity. Some people never have their 29th year. I had a woman come up to me after one performance and tell me: 'I'm 70 and still haven't had my 29th year yet.'"

FF: Some gay publications have mentioned that the word gay, or homosexual, or lesbian is not present in the play. Is that planned?

Carroll: "It's not that it was 'planned' but it just was not necessary to tell the story I chose to tell. I did not choose to examine and portray Stein's sexuality. Someone else may decide to do so in the future. I chose to examine relationships of different kinds that many people can identify with, and they do. Gertrude herself didn't write about it, it was just

there as were many other aspects of her life."

She doesn't like labels of any sort. The label of a "gay" play might tend to keep many away from seeing the play that would otherwise enjoy it. She senses some uneasiness in the audience when she talks about her first love affair, her reason for leaving the U.S. and going to Paris, and her relationship with Alice. "Originally the first experience was three pages long and the audience would not have sat through it. I talked with Marty (Martin who wrote it) and told him we had to cut it down. Now it runs less than two minutes, but is one of the most powerful portions of the play. After the initial 'catch' in the audience when they realize the subject matter, the laughter that follows shows an acceptance. They don't want to talk about it in any more detail, but they accept it."

FF: Did your friends and family question you as to your choice of subject matter?

Carroll: "Many of them felt that I was the 'clown doing Hamlet' and others weren't at all sure who Stein was. When I told my mother who I would be playing she said, 'Is she married to Jules?' It wasn't only a learning process for me, but for everyone around me while I researched the play for three years."

She also was told that it would never go as a vehicle. The more she looked, the more she was convinced that it was perfect. She never received any outside monies for the project until after it was a reality. "The theater shouldn't have to rely on the government for funding. If it is good theater, it will support itself." Recently during Senate hearings on funding for the arts, she told this, to those present. It isn't a popular view, but she has shown it can be done.

Once word got around about the project many people came forth with money to help out. "Vidal Sassoon's foundation bought \$10,000 in tickets for one performance. They gave all the tickets to young students of the arts that might not have been able to see the play. I spoke with them afterwards to encourage their interest in the arts and performing."

FF: Do you have a suit pending against someone for infringing on your performance of GS 3?

Carroll: "No, I don't. There was a slight problem with the advertising of another production called 'Gerty Stein,' but there is no law suit. I am going to be doing a cable TV version of the play soon, though. It will be a different production, because I won't have the audience participation. We have had a film crew following us all over and will piece it all together to make a documentary on how we got going and will be followed by the play itself."

She will be taking the play on tour around the world soon. This is after a 14 month stand on Broadway and this national tour.

Carroll is a conservative thinker with liberal attitudes. She feels the right wing has some good ideas, but is frightened of the Moral Majority. "Now it is abortion and homosexuals, but who says that they won't go on to Catholics next. It is very frightening to think of where it will all end."

Continued on page 9

Bill Gardner Speaks Nov. 15 on Gay Couple Legal Problems

Attorney William Gardner will present a program addressing some of the problems faced by gay relationships from a legal standpoint, at the next Mattachine meeting on November 15. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Church, Elmwood at West Ferry. The meeting will start at 7:30 and will be preceded by the regular Pot Luck Supper at 6:30. Everyone is welcome to attend both.

Attorney Gardner will discuss problems that can be encountered when gay couples try to purchase life insurance; health insurance benefits for a "spouse;" credit cards and ratings; hospital visitation rights and many other discriminatory problems that gays face when involved with a lover.

There will be time for questions and women and men are welcome to attend and talk with Bill about any problems they may have faced.

AN EDITORIAL:

Buffalo's Gay Community: We're Talking Pride

At this point in time Buffalo's Gays have more positive choices than they have ever had before.

With the opening of three new bars, the good prospect that there will soon be a community center again and a more tolerant way of thinking in the non-gay populace.

The new bars bring Buffalo's numbers where they have never been before. Whether it shows progress or is a sign of a vital community is a matter of opinion. However, if all of them are supported and there are no favorites of the masses, it cannot help but bode well for everyone.

The variety of men's bars, women's bars and mixed bars has never been more plentiful. The sexes are mingling and sharing good times, in a social atmosphere, once again. Hopefully, this will carry over into the concept of a community center for everyone.

The Community Center Coalition is continuing its efforts to get the basic structure set up to make a physical building a reality. First—there has to be the idea of a center born in the minds of the various groups that comprise Buffalo's gay population. From the response of their survey, the seeds have been planted.

And finally, and perhaps the most significant, is the change of attitude in the non-gay segment of the population. As "we" become more visible we find that there is not the anti-gay sentiment that one would think would exist with the Right Wing climate that is prevalent today.

After media appearances by Mattachine, the Gay Pride Fest '81 Coalition, the cable appearance of community center coalition people; the response has not been overwhelmingly negative. In fact the results have been very positive.

Gays, friends and families and concerned people have sought out the various groups and have wanted to find out more about "us." Perhaps this will be the end of the biggest problem of coming out, "What will they say?"

Feeling that we are indeed all in the same situations, both good and bad, can bring us together in the future. We have shared enough of the bad, now it is our choice to go on to the good.

They are not stopping us...do we stop ourselves?

We wish the best to all gay businesses, whether openly gay, or just gay owned and operated. Let's hope the gay community supports everyone that is trying to help them learn that we're not so bad after all.

We wish the best to the Coalition and hope that they can come up with a concept that will meet as many of the community's needs as possible. We hope everyone will give them their support.

And finally, to all the non-gays who are trying to understand us, thank you.

In This Issue. . . Community Center Calendar Joins Us As A Regular

In this issue we once again present some new features to you our readers.

We are happy to welcome the new Community Center Calendar to the paper. In this column each month you will be kept up to date on the progress of the efforts to re-establish a Gay Community Center here in Buffalo. Watch This Space!

There is also an article about the Gay Professionals Awards Dinner and the William Award. It was a great evening of Honoring those who have done so much for our community.

There is also an article about the new bars in Buffalo. We will go into them in more detail next month. In the mean time, go out and say hi to all the new places.

We hope you enjoy our issue. Good Reading!

THE FIFTH FREEDOM: YOUR WAY TO BUFFALO'S GAYS

THE FIFTH FREEDOM

INSIDE:

Vol. 11 No. 11

November 1981

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THE FIFTH FREEDOM is published monthly by the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier Inc., P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Published by and for the gay community with a circulation of 2,500 monthly, it is distributed free of charge through any establishment or organization permitting such distribution. Subscriptions available at a yearly rate of \$5 annually to cover postage and handling. All mailings sent in a plain, sealed envelope.

The presence of the name, picture or other representation of a business organization or person(s), in this newspaper is not an indication of the sexual preference of such person(s), organization or business.

THE FIFTH FREEDOM welcomes the submission of news items, articles, letters, drawings, photographs, poetry and short fiction from the gay community. Announcements and releases from gay organizations are placed free of charge. Materials submitted should be typewritten and double-spaced. We cannot return any materials submitted unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and all materials are subject to editorial revision.

Deadline for the submission of all materials and advertising copy is the 20th of each month. THE FIFTH FREEDOM reserves the right to reject any materials or copy judged to be in poor taste.

Staff members of the FIFTH FREEDOM are unsalaried volunteers and additional volunteers are welcome. Advertising rates are available upon request.

Address all correspondence to: THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Telephone: (716) 881-5335.

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JOHN A. FAULRING JR., EDITOR

Letters to the Editor

Reader Can Name That Tune In All The Bars

With 1982 nearly here, we as gays have come a very long way. It was just 10 short years ago when it was decadent to simply walk into a gay bar. Now, many gays have given them up out of plain boredom. I for one, still frequent the local bars to find it is as if I had walked into a time machine and gone back about 20 years.

Diana Ross, a phenomenal talent indeed has remained on top consistently now for about 17 (?) years. I would never say anything against Ms. Ross but as talented as she is, there are other people who deserve to be heard.

How many times have you walked into a bar to hear "Ain't No Mountain High Enough"—all 20 minutes of it? Sometimes 2 or 3 times a night!

Tom Petty, U-2, Split Enz, Garland Jeffries, Martha Davis and The Motels—just to name a few performers who currently have albums out full of good sounds. Do you hear anything by any of these groups in a gay bar? Rarely, if not never.

Coming out as I did in 1974, I was radical and all for changes in attitudes towards gays. WE were united and just wanted to be heard by someone—everyone. Times were changing and so should attitudes. Since then things have changed and now it's the gays who have come to a standstill.

The music in the gay bars is just an example of how no one can accept change. What a contradiction of what being gay is all about. Very sad.

Christopher P. Stark

Writer Responds To Letter Involving Him Dearest Timmer,

Golly gee whiz- it is so nice to have my name mentioned (even if it was only once) in this paper by someone other than myself.

I've been waiting for what seems ages for your oh so promised letter- what took you so long?

Understandably, you are still quite upset about what had happened that specific evening. I also realize that these stories of people being attacked on Allen are indeed no rumor. What I can't quite understand is, what is it you want from Dom and other bar owners? Run outside with a shotgun, blasting away just anyone who looks as if they might rob someone? Come on Timmer, think about it. The only thing we can do is call the police. And if more people would report these attacks to the police, the terror in walking from one bar to the next would surely decrease.

You seem to think that bar owners have the power of God to put a stop to these vicious attacks. You seem to think that it is the bar owners' sole responsibility for what goes on out on Allen St.

Continued on page 6

M. C. C O M P T O N ' S

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"Family Protection Act" Focus of Gay Rights Lobby

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Gay Rights National Lobby has set the defeat of the so-called "Family Protection Act" as one of the Lobby's "major priorities," according to GRNL's Executive Director Steve Endean. In announcing the Lobby's intention to work strongly against the legislation, Endean characterized it as "an omnibus 'shopping list' for the Moral Majority and the rest of the New Right. It includes not only a number of anti-gay provisions, but also sections which are anti-woman, anti-black, anti-labor, and anti-teacher."

The legislation — really two bills: H.R. 3955 in the House and S. 1378 in the Senate — is a re-introduction of legislation which failed to pass the last Congress. While this is the second session in which it has been introduced, the sharp move the Congress has made to the Right has led some Lobby strategists to speculate that either action on the bill itself will take place in this Congress or — a more likely situation — parts of the bill may be tacked onto other legislation as "riders" on the floor.

To begin constituent pressure against the FPA, GRNL has scheduled a National Les-

bian and Gay Constituent Lobby Week to take place in home district offices the third week of November. The Lobby, which coordinates legislative strategy on Capitol Hill for the gay community, hopes to have state coordinators for the project in place by the end of September, and eventually to coordinate nearly 300 meetings in local Congressional district offices by the November Lobby Week.

In addition, the Lobby will launch a postcard campaign against the FPA, stressing the fact that the "family" should not be exploited to advance a Far Right agenda intended to infringe upon a wide variety of groups' civil liberties and civil rights. While GRNL will continue its petition campaign, it has come to the conclusion that postcard campaigns — such as the campaign of the National Abortion Rights Action League — are also effective.

The constituent mobilization and coalition building efforts will be supplemented by increased direct legislative advocacy by the Lobby on Capitol Hill. GRNL has established plans for a "Lobbying Team" — composed, it is hoped, of at least 10 to 15 members — to work with Endean on the Family Protection Act campaign, as well as on other legislative developments.

Those persons desiring more information on how they can fight the FPA should write GRNL, Post Office Box 1892, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Community Center Calendar

Update On Buffalo's New Gay Center

Perhaps you've heard talk in the bars, baths, or baseball diamonds, of a new gay community center due to open soon in Buffalo. Over the past few years, our city has been without a center where those coming out can receive peer counseling in a supportive setting, or new gays in town can touch base; where informal socializing in a non-alcoholic atmosphere can take place, or newsletters, workshops, sports events, dances, meetings, conversations, and hanging out can happen on an ongoing basis. Times are getting tougher, and gays around the country have expressed renewed support for the idea that we are each other's best friends! A coalition to form a gay center has been created recently in this spirit. We are now in the midst of finding space, raising money, developing a membership structure and starting-up services. Your participation would make a difference! Read on for a little background and information on how you can get involved.

Last June, lesbians and gay men got together at a Gay Pride workshop to discuss the possibility of opening a center in Buffalo. Nearly five years had passed since the bustling center on Main Street had closed amidst cries and counter-cries by men and women of 'take-over'. Members of the workshop discussed publicly for the first time the organizational problems encountered in operating the last center as well as what they'd like to see in a new one. From this meeting an informal coalition emerged, the Buffalo Gay Community Center Coalition (BGCCC).

Our group is an ad hoc mixture of individuals and representatives from local gay organizations including Mattachine, Gay Rights for Older Women (GROW), Gay Professionals, The lesbian caucus of the Buffalo Women's Liberation Union and the Student Alliance for Gay Equality (SAGE). Around 40 people participate and this includes a surprisingly balanced number of men and women. Given the history of strained relations between gay men and women within the Buffalo community, it has not been without apprehension that we embarked on our goal of creating a mixed gay center. To neutralize this influence, we conduct our work with a high value placed on building unity, rather than assuming it within our group, and work towards strengthening our alliance by accomplishing our goals on an equal footing and with mutual respect. We trust that our common purpose, good will, and vigilance will prove strong medicine in the face of unfavorable forces which we may encounter.

The first task of the coalition was to determine if, indeed, the Buffalo gay community felt a need for a center and would support such an effort. A written survey was developed to assess community sentiment and was distributed at the bars and local establishments frequented by gays. More than 300 people responded enthusiastically to the idea of a center comprised of both male and female membership and offering an array of services. Incidentally, over 200 of the respondents broke the chain of fear and signed FULL NAMES and addresses for our confidential mailing list.

The coalition currently operates with both short-term and long-term goals. Our immediate objectives are to:

1. Promote confidence in our ability as gay men and lesbians to work together in a principled fashion.

2. Broaden our base as a coalition.
3. Establish a preliminary structure for membership in and governance of a gay center.
4. Establish a temporary site for a center from which to provide visibility, outreach, and initial services.
5. Raise the funds necessary to achieve our other goals.

Our ultimate aim is to achieve a solidarity and financial stability which will enable us to support a large, multi-purpose space with a comprehensive set of services in the not-so-distant future.

Our work is accomplished by three committees: Charter, Fundraising, and Space. The Charter committee is devising a structure to determine policy, governance, and membership; this includes exploring creative methods of achieving operational parity between men and women. The Fundraising committee is planning for the financial stability of both a temporary center and more permanent quarters. Since our best information indicates that there is little reason to anticipate funding from outside sources, the task of keeping a center afloat necessarily falls on the resources of our own gay community. Finally, the Space committee is handling the important job of finding our new 'home.' Utility costs, location, layout etc., all have to be taken into consideration; so, walk the streets with them, or phone in any ideas you have to offer.

Sound worthwhile, interesting, fun? You are encouraged to attend one of our meetings, and if you like, become immediately involved in the process by joining one of these committees. Or perhaps you have suggestions or other skills you'd like to offer. No time commitment is too small. To contact the coalition, call:

Gay Hotline: 881-5335

or

Emma's Bookstore: 836-8970

Community Center Fundraiser Planned

On December 14, Mattachine is throwing the first fund raising event for the Buffalo Gay Coalition Community Center. The proceeds will be turned over to the Coalition to use for expenses they will be incurring the next few months in trying to form the workings of a new center.

It is hoped that everyone will make plans to attend. The final details will be announced in next month's paper, as will be locations to purchase tickets.

"We are giving the party as our gift to the success of the Coalition," said John A. Faulring, Jr., President of Mattachine. "We know there is a short supply of money and feel that this way people can have a good time and support the center at the same time."

So mark it on your calendar and be sure to attend.

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Editor's Edition

Buffalo's Gay Bars: A Community Asset?

BY JOHN A. FAULRING, JR.

Why is it that Buffalo's bars come and go and those in Rochester seem to survive for so long?

During a recent visit there for a meeting of the New York State Gay/Lesbian Conference, I found what might be a clue to this situation.

While talking with some of the Gay Alliance people I heard one of them say, "We look at the bars here as a community asset. Not just a bar, but a meeting place, community center and where we can welcome new people to our town."

This is in spite of the existence of a gay community center in Rochester. They still consider the bars an extension of that building. Many people utilize the center and bars as a way of meeting and working with their gay city dwellers and those visiting the area.

In addition, once a year the bars all get together to hold a large picnic for the benefit of the community center. They supply all the food and beverages needed. Then the Gay Alliance sells tickets for an all you can eat/drink day in the park. All the proceeds go to them for the upkeep of the center. This past summer they had 1500 people there.

The bars themselves all work together, too. They put a newsletter out once a month and list the specials, events of interest and work together to make sure there are no conflicting schedules, so no one will suffer.

Not all the bars advertise in The Empty Closet, but they still work with the Alliance to put some of the revenue derived from their gay clientele back into the community.

There are at least 10 bars there and while they are not all packed every night, none of them are going out of business. There are all "types" of bars and they all have a crowd that goes there regularly.

During recent months some of the bars that are situated along a certain street joined with the baths in the area to hire off-duty police to patrol to help protect their customers. The police encouraged this move and quickly noted a decline in the crime rate in the area. They said it had to do with the private patrols sponsored by the gay businesses in the area. The non-gay community in the area also benefited in feeling freer to go out of their homes at night.

Maybe it is time for the gay community here, as well as the bar owners/operators, to reassess what they all hope to derive from running a gay business. Perhaps it would be beneficial to everyone to have talks on this subject, have patrons tell the owners what they do/don't like about the place and even form a gay business association. These would be positive steps to making everyone an asset to Buffalo's Gay Community.

Buffalo's Newest Bars Are Joined By An Old Friend

The newest of Buffalo's bars are now open to serve the gay community. Here is a brief rundown of some of the specials offered.

The latest of the bars to open was BUNKHOUSE, formerly Marianne's at the corner of Allen and Delaware. The theme will be western with a variety of music played. There will be a "western dress code" after 11 p.m. That means denim, leather, etc.

They will continue serving lunches, dinners and late night snacks. There will be dinner specials daily and a clam bar on Fridays. There will be a champagne brunch from 11 a.m. 3 p.m. on Sundays and a free buffet from 5-8 p.m. the same day.

There will be a DJ from Wed.-Sun. and Country Western night Monday, 2 for 1 Wednesday and Thursday will be "Smut" night. (?)

The second bar is THE WESTBROOK STATION at the corner of Delaware and North. Located in the former St. Georges Table, they, too, will be serving lunches, dinners and late night snacks.

They will be closed on Mondays, for now, Tuesdays beer and wine will be 75¢, Wednesday 2 for 1 and a Sunday Tea Dance from 2 til 7.

In the future they hope to have drag shows, other "gay" entertainment and a piano bar separate from the music from the regular bar. The sound system is being reworked and should be done soon.

They also have a private room that they are making available free to groups in the gay community to use for meetings. Any group interested should call or stop by for information.

And finally, ME AND MY ARROW, 274 Delaware Ave. has reopened for business. They will still open at 4 p.m. with Happy Hour until 8. Wednesdays they will have a "Progression Night" where the drinks will start at 35¢ from 9-10 and will progress from there to no

more than \$1.25. Each hour will see a new price up the scale.

Thursdays will still be special theme nights and Sunday will still be Tea Dance Time. The Happy Hour now means that all drinks will be 90¢ each. And food will again be served.

All of the bars we spoke to are eager to serve the gay community and are open for your suggestions. They all want to hear from you and what you would like to see Buffalo's bars become.

We hope you will stop in and see all of the new places and be sure to continue to support those bars that are the old stand-bys, Villa Capri, Dominique's, and the fairly new M.C. Compton's. And the Allen Restaurant is still here for meals.

Buffalo has more to offer than ever before...let's keep it that way!

Parents & Friends Form National Organization

LOS ANGELES — Hoisting the acronym Parents FLAG as their banner, parents from seven states created a national federation Aug. 1 to build support for their gay sons and daughters.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays, as it is called, will provide support and referrals for local parents' groups in 30 cities in the U.S. and Canada, in addition to contact parents who provide peer counseling in two dozen other cities.

National education efforts directed towards schools, professional and other parents' groups, and support for gay-rights protections by government, are also on the agenda of Parents FLAG, according to the national board of directors elected at the two-day meeting.

The six board members, all parents and most of them the veterans of years of activity in their local parents' groups, established the central office of Parents FLAG in Los Angeles, with the address, Box 24565, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

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Boston University Gays Propose New School Policy

GAY PEOPLE OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY is proposing a non-discrimination policy based on sexual and affectional preference. The policy calls upon the University to issue a non-discrimination statement for every segment of the University.

Gay Rights is an issue that has come of age, a growing number of municipalities have adopted ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual preference. In addition to those required by law many of the countries, largest corporations and Universities have adopted non-discrimination policies of their own.

We are calling upon you to help us because even though 5 to 10% of the students, faculty, and staff are homosexual in orientation, many live in fear of being discovered. Staff members fear for their jobs. Dormitory residents fear that they will be removed from their floor. Others fear reprisals from the University if they speak up. For this reason the University is likely to ignore the proposal of one student group.

Even though many members of the University are sympathetic to the problems gay people face, others are openly homophobic. Without a University-wide policy GAYS will never be sure if they will get equal treatment in the University community.

We are pleased that the B.U.C.-A.A.U.P. (Boston University Chapter—American Association of University Professors.) and District 65 (Staff Union) have included non-discrimination statements in their contract proposals. We hope that other groups on campus will join with us to show unified support for a non-discrimination statement.

We would appreciate unified support from many diverse campus and national groups. Please contact us if you have any questions. Statements of agreements with our proposal may be left in our box in the Program Resource Office or mail to the address:

Kevin R. Carleton
Public Relations Office
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Fifth Freedom Advisor

Hair Today, Gone Today Gay Male/Lesbian Friends

Dear FFA.

I'm am a 19 year old male and have quite a bit of hair on my body. Everyone thinks it's great, except me. I HATE IT. I hate the sweating, the pimples, the looking like a teddy bear. Do you think it would make me look like a fem' if I shaved it off?? How can I make my friends understand my feelings about my hairy body?

Answer:

The presence or lack of hair on your body has NOTHING to do with masculinity or femininity. You state in your letter that you hate your hairy body. That is all the reason you need to remove it using one of the various methods available. You can explain your feelings to your friends but you do not have to justify your actions to them. It's your body, not theirs.

Body hair can be removed many ways. Depilatory creams (chemically removing the body hair), hot wax hair removal, shaving and of course - electrolysis. Depilatory creams and hot wax hair removal kits are available from any drug store. Be sure to read and follow the directions as they can be potentially dangerous if misused. Both can and do produce excellent results that can last for several months before you will need to reuse them. Shaving your body can be very erotic, but the hair will come back in quite rapidly as a stubble which can be irritating to your skin. The other method is electrolysis, which is an electrical method of hair removal and must be done by a trained professional. This method is quite costly and for some people can be very uncomfortable. It is a permanent method of hair removal.

Before you get started thinking about what areas you want to remove the hair from, - chest, back, arms, legs, genitals?? Not every method can be used with every part of the body. Depilatory creams can not be used safely in the genital area or perianal area. (perianal is the area around your asshole.)

You might be surprised how many people remove part of all of the hair on the various parts of their body. Not everyone likes a mouthful of hair or sleeping with a Teddy Bear. If it really bothers you then by all means get rid of it. Be sure to remember that unless you choose electrolysis, removing body hair is an ongoing process. You have to keep working on it your body will turn into one five o'clock shadow.

Dignity Celebrates Sixth Anniversary

On October 4th, Dignity/Buffalo celebrated their sixth anniversary. Their traditional Anniversary Dinner was highlighted by guest speakers, Bob Hunter, Regional Director, Pat Baskin, International Secretary and her lover, Win, representing Dignity/Cleveland. After dinner was completed, a brief question and answer session gave the opportunity for members to realize the size and strength of Dignity. This was the first time, all of the guest speakers visited the Buffalo chapter. Their visits will be remembered and perhaps they will be able to return in the future.

There were also members from Dignity/Rochester and Dignity/Detroit helping in the celebration.

There were 35 members in attendance. The largest since Dignity/Buffalo's beginning six years ago.

Dear FFA

Why do lesbians hate gay men as much as they do? Every time i go into City Lights it seems that all I ever get from the women there are dirty looks and hostile feelings.

Signed,

Charlie

Dear Charlie,

To draw a conclusion about all gay women based on the actions of just a few is not fair to lesbians or to yourself. It is possible that the women you encountered are caught up more in the feminist movement where, at times, there has been a strong "hate men" attitude.

Please don't misunderstand me, I strongly favor equal rights and opportunities for men and for women.

Maybe the dirty looks and hostile feelings are a reflection of the attitude you are projecting to the women you are encountering at the bar.

Charlie, try to understand that gay women want and need the same things as gay men. They have the same hopes, fears and needs for love as do men.

Recently, I was with friends at a new bar here in the city called M.C. Comptons on Niagara Street where the majority of the people were women. They were very friendly and made us feel welcome. If there were hostile feeling or anti-male attitudes they were not apparent.

Until gay men and gay women can set aside their prejudice and accept each other as people who are like any others except for their sexual orientation, we can have no greater enemy than ourselves.

Please give Comptons a try. I think you will get a new perspective on lesbians and I know you will be nicely surprised.

Letter Con't. Continued from page 2
The responsibility lies with all of us: you, me, the straight and gay community, and the police. And, whether you like this or not, without help from the police, these attacks will continue until there is blood on someones doorstep.

I realize I'd win no popularity contest, due to my strict door policy. And my door policy stands as is: absolutely no one will be permitted into the bar after 4:30, unless it is urgent. And although your group had been attacked long before we even gave last call, I saw fit to let at least the one member of your group in to speak with Dom. And as for your attackers following and accosting you in my hallway, unless your attackers were super he-men or something, you were quite safe. I had also bolted the outside door, leaving you and the remainder of your group safe and snug inside the hallway. With the way you were ranting and raving that evening, you seemed much more concerned about getting yourself into an obviously closed bar than you were about the one member I had let in.

I think I'd be quite justified in asking for an apology for the way you behaved that evening. If not for me, for the verbal abuse you gave Dom and other patrons of the bar.

I know this letter may sound as if I'm preaching, and I do apologize for that. But I am sick of hearing that it is the owners of bars and their employees sole responsibility, 'fault' some would say, for the attacks out on Allen. We can do little or nothing without the cooperation from customers and the community we live and work in. Please don't blame us for something we have no control over. It is up to all of us, EVERYONE, to make Allen and the surrounding area safe.

Jeremy Fox

How Does Your Garden Grow

A Cure For Your Plant Woes: A Green Thumb and Misty

Hello, and a notriously nubile November to each and every one of you. As I ended last months column, so shall I begin this months with the hope that all your Halloween tricks turned out well!

Now comes the month when we will get to stuff our bird. But more on that later. I'm going to devote this months column to people who feel they have "the touch of death" when it comes to houseplants.

That proverbial green thumb is just a figment of the imagination because anyone, anywhere can grow some kind of plant somewhere. All it takes is a little knowledge about the plant you have, and a little common sense. I always remember the lady who was buying a croton plant, and when told approximately how much water to give it exclaimed with surprise, "Why I didn't know you had to water it!"

C'mon now! That's not using ones head. I felt like telling her to try a plastic fern, but this one would probably have killed that too. She would have put it through the dishwasher and melted it or something equally as common senseless. We finally gave the proper care instructions, and she never brought it back dead, so I assume she kept it fit. Well there are a good many easier to take care of plant than a croton, and here are a few.

Philodendron, the good old stand by for dimly lit areas is a good choice by any means. It will vine and twine once it acclimates itself to its new surroundings. Pothos, or Devils Ivy, looks like philodendron, but with variegated leaves. It requires a little more light than philodendron to keep its variegation, but still will tolerate a dimly lit area.

Now, by dim light, I don't mean in a closet in the basement with the door closed. Dim light could be obtained 8' - 10' from a north facing window, provided no buildings obstruct the incoming light. If there are buildings, dim light would be directly at the window.

Most people will kill their plants with kindness. Overwatering is the main cause of "plantis mortalitus." when told

to keep a plant evenly moist, some people think it must be submerged in an aquarium tank for 10 hours each day. Not true. Evenly moist means just that. Not soggy, but not bone dry. Although it really doesn't really hurt if the top soil dries out, even though the directions call for evenly moist. Philodendron and Pothos like it evenly moist.

Wandering Jews, of which there are a million and a half plants which fall under that name, are rampant growers with bright light (which could be an east window with no outside obstructions) but have a tendency to dry up and drop leaves as they become older. I've found it best to take scissors to them periodically and shear them back to nearly the top of the pot. This will produce vigorous new growth, and keep the plant full. It doesn't hurt if this one dries out a little between waterings, but if let dry out too much, will promote leaf drop and drying.

Its a good time now to start with my monthly "mist, mist, mist" warnings, as houses will be drier now that the heat is on, and unless you have a humidifier, your air will be desert dry. A mister bottle can be purchased at any nursery, hardware or discount store, or you can use any bottle, such as Glass Plus bottle with a trigger or pump sprayer. The main thing is to cover the leaves with a bit of moisture once or twice a day, so the leaves won't transpire more moisture than the stems are taking out of the soil.

Remember, different plants are going to react differently to different conditions in different homes. Now that we've got our differences all squared away, I'll just add, that even if you have no natural light at all, you can still use artificial light to your advantage. When you purchase a plant, ask a lot of questions about it, or buy a good book on indoor plant care. There are a lot of non-technical books on the market with loads of information for anyone who thinks they haven't a green thumb.

So until next month (yes, it will be December) have a Happy Thanksgiving, keep your hand on the bird and, oh yes, mist, mist, mist.

Thanksgiving Dinner Planned for Nov. 26

On Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 26, Mattachine will be holding a holiday dinner at the Unitarian Church, 695 Elmwood Ave. at West Ferry.

The dinner will be a pot luck affair with the main course provided by Mattachine. The assorted goodies that go along with the dinner will be provided by those attending. If you would like to attend and don't know what to bring, call the Hotline, 881-5335, for an idea.

The day will start at noon with dinner planned for 6 p.m. It will continue until 7. If you have no one to spend the day with, why not plan to join us. There will be a TV set for those who want to watch the football games.

It is felt that this will provide a day of friendship for those that might otherwise spend it alone.

If you plan on coming to the party, PLEASE call the Hotline at 881-5335, or John at 886-2590 to make your reservations. This way we will know how big a bird to buy.

Also, if you are not going to be able to make it, but would like to help out, call the numbers with any donation you might have.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Buffalo Buns Contest 'Rolls' ON

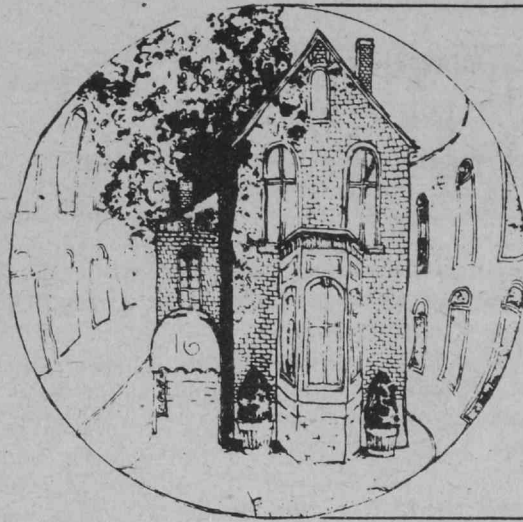
Time is running out on the Buffalo Buns contest. The deadline is November 20. We are low on entries, so you have a better chance of winning!

Buffalo Buns is a new contest that The Fifth Freedom is running to show that there are beautiful bodies under all those winter clothes. There will be prizes for the best buns entered, in the contest that is! They will be judged solely on appearance. There will be no talent portion of this beauty contest.

To enter send a picture of your favorite buns, either in or out of clothes. They must be in good taste and not show any other portion of the anatomy. Get the hint? There can be accessories, but the buns the thing. Photos are not returnable unless you send a self-addressed stamped envelope along with sufficient postage.

The deadline is November 20. The winner will be announced in the January 1982 issue.

REMEMBER: YOU CAN SUBMIT ENTRIES AND HAVE YOUR NAME WITHHELD FROM PUBLICATION. WE WILL JUST PUBLISH THE WINNING ENTRY AND NOT THE NAME OF THE OWNER.



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RID Yourself Of The Problem Of Crab Lice

Infestation with pubic lice (*Phthirus pubis*)—commonly called “crabs” because of their crab-like appearance—is one of the six most common sexually transmitted diseases. Various estimates place the incidence at 1 to 2 million cases annually in the United States. A steady increase has been recorded over the past two decades, probably as a direct result of increased sexual freedom. The incidence among sexually active gay males is undoubtedly higher than among the general population because of the greater frequency and variety of sexual contacts. There are few gay men who have not contracted crabs themselves or who don't know at least one other person who has. Yet, despite the widespread nature of crab infestation, few of us know much about lice or about the safest and most effective way to get rid of them.

Lice are probably as old as man. The ancient Greeks and Egyptians wrote about lice, and remains of these irritating insects have been found on prehistoric American Indian mummies. Throughout history the louse has flourished without regard for social class or position. Poor living conditions, overcrowded housing and lack of personal cleanliness have all contributed to an abundance of human lice. Lice began to be associated with filth, war and disease in the Middle Ages and that negative impression continues, although one can be personally very clean and still contract lice from someone else. Body lice have been known to carry typhus, a disease which has ended wars by virtually destroying armies.

After World War II, when DDT was being used widely in the United States, lice were nearly eliminated. In fact, World War II was the first major war in history that was not followed by a widespread typhus epidemic. Following the war, there was a general improvement in living standards, and control of lice appeared to be a reality in the United States. But crab lice are back with us today—and in near epidemic proportions. The ban of DDT in 1971 as a hazardous substance, extensive world travel and an increase in social and sexual contact are all thought to have contributed to this situation. Crab lice are almost always contracted by intimate sexual contact and with increased sexual contacts there has been a large increase in the number of crab lice infestations. While these infestations are most commonly found in the pubic area, they sometimes appear in even the most carefully groomed side-burns, mustaches and beards. Since crab lice seem to seek out areas with short, coarse body hair, eyebrows, eyelashes and the underarms may also become a site of infestation.

Lice are small, flat, wingless insects with stubby antennae and three pairs of legs, which end in sharp, curved claws. There are three types of human louse—head louse, body louse, and pubic louse (crabs). They all pass through similar life cycles. Head and pubic lice spend their entire life cycle on the skin of the human host. Body lice live in clothing, coming to the skin surface only to feed. All lice need human warmth to survive.

Each type of louse develops from eggs (nits) that incubate for about one week. The small, grey-white, tear-shaped eggs hatch in about a week's time into nymphs. On about three weeks, the nymph matures into an adult and the female starts to lay eggs. Each type of louse survives about one month as a mature adult, during which time the female produces 3 to 4 eggs daily. A female can lay more than 100 eggs during her lifetime. Body lice deposit their eggs upon fibers of clothing, particularly in the seams. Head and pubic lice deposit their eggs upon the hair strand of the infested area.

Pubic lice are the most common among adults and are usually transmitted by direct physical contact—from one pubic hair to another. However, they can also be transmitted within a 24-hour period by infested towels, bed sheets, laundry and even toilet

seats. Crab lice travel much more slowly on humans than either body or head lice, so they don't move too far to infest other areas unless transferred there by hand (under fingernails which scratch the pubic area and then touch other parts of the body, for example).

Body lice are potential carriers of disease, transmitting epidemic typhus, trench fever and a louse-borne variety of relapsing fever. Fortunately, in this country, body lice are relatively uncommon. Current problems usually involve head lice (most common in children) and pubic lice (usually found in adults), neither of which is directly implicated in disease transmission.

The head and pubic louse are highly dependent upon human body warmth and will die if separated from the body for 24 hours. The body louse is more hardy since it lives on clothing and can survive if separated from human contact for up to one week without feeding.

There are four general symptoms of crab lice infestation: The first thing to notice is itching. Persons may become sensitive to materials produced by lice. This sensitization results in itching which can be very intense. Individuals who are very sensitive to the bite of the louse can develop swellings and a great deal of itching. Thickened skin with pigmented spots, referred to as vagabond's disease, has been seen in persons infested with lice for a long time. Lesions called “wine sores” are seen on the legs. A secondary infection can be started when lice-irritated skin is scratched and broken. These latter symptoms are not very common, however, and usually only the itching is experienced.

The second thing to watch for is tiny flakes that look like dandruff, but are really crab lice eggs. Although dandruff may resemble eggs, dandruff can easily be removed from hair. The louse egg is attached to the hair with cement secreted by the louse and cannot easily be removed by pulling on it. You'll find these eggs at the base of pubic hairs—right next to the warm skin surface. Once these eggs hatch, the lice start maturing. So, it isn't enough to kill just the crabs—the eggs have to be destroyed too, before they start the whole cycle again.

The third sign to look for is tiny specks of dark brown—usually seen on underwear or sheets, but sometimes on body skin as well. These specks are harmless waste materials, but they are unsightly. Also, if the crab lice have been around for awhile, sometimes you may notice small sky-blue spots on the body skin. These spots, usually located on the trunk and thighs, cause no pain or itching and disappear within a short period.

The fourth fact is that crab lice live on human blood. After they stab an opening through the skin to get the blood, they swell up and change color—turning a deep red—which makes them easier to see, like a mosquito after it's bitten you.

It is important to know and recognize the symptoms because the crab lice themselves are very difficult to see. They are very small—only one or two millimeters long.

There are two generally recommended methods of treatment for lice: a prescription-only lotion (or shampoo) whose main ingredient is 1% gamma benzene hexachloride, also known as lindane, and marketed under the brand name of Kwell, and over-the-counter, non-prescription medications whose major ingredient is pyrethrin compounds. Several brand names are on the market, including A-200 and RID (distributed by Pfizer, Inc.). A-200 contains .165% pyrethrins. RID, on the other hand, has twice as much of this active ingredient (.3% pyrethrins), and the package also comes with a fine-toothed comb to help remove dead lice and their eggs and a booklet on the prevention and treatment of lice (two items not supplied with A-200).

RID is also the only non-prescription product for lice treatment whose safety and effectiveness in lice control has been documented in four separate clinical studies.

What are Pyrethrins and why are they preferred from a safety point of view over gamma benzene hexachloride (Kwell)? Pyrethrin compounds are effective and rapid-acting natural pesticides derived from chrysanthemum plants. The natural pyrethrins have a long record of safe use and are effective for use against human lice infestation. They have been approved for human use by the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control in the United States.

Two articles recently cited clinical studies conducted comparing the safety of using pyrethrins versus using gamma benzene hexachloride (Kwell). The January, 1980 issue of Current Therapeutic Research mentioned: “Over 9% of a topically administered dose of (gamma Benzene hexachloride) can be recovered in the urine and . . . absorption from the scalp can be 2 to 6 times greater. A number of serious adverse experiences have been reported in association with the injudicious use of gamma benzene hexachloride, including at least one suspected neurotoxic reaction following topical administration, suggesting that therapeutic use of this agent should be closely monitored . . . there has been a renewed interest among health officials in the series of natural plant extracts known as pyrethrins . . .” The July - August, 1979 issue of Sexually Transmitted Diseases contained a report of a clinical study comparing Kwell with RID which stated: “It should also be noted that plain and synergized pyrethrin compounds, because they are poorly absorbed through the intact skin and because of their very rapid metabolic breakdown in mammals, appear to be free of the toxicity problems that were observed with the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons such as gamma benzene hexachloride in the treatment of infestation by head lice.” Thus pyrethrins seem preferable to gamma benzene hexachloride (i.e., RID seems preferable to Kwell) from a safety perspective.

From the perspective of effectiveness, both RID and Kwell eliminated 100% of head and pubic lice in four separate clinical studies. The above mentioned study reported in Sexually Transmitted Diseases (conducted at the Bucks County Research Institute near Philadelphia, PA.) reported, however, that treatment with RID is complete after only 10 minutes whereas Kwell lotion must be left in place for 12 hours. These results are similar to those reported in another comparative study of RID and Kwell that was conducted at the Haight-Ashbury Clinic in San Francisco. Moreover, the Bucks County study stated that “because conditions such as infestation with lice carry with them a certain social embarrassment and stigma, many victims are reluctant to seek medical attention; thus, the problem of transmission is further compounded. Effective nonprescription medications for the less serious sexually transmitted diseases could offer a distinct advantage in helping to interrupt this vicious circle . . . In addition, as a nonprescription product, the synergized-pyrethrin compound holds the promise of greater economy to the patient (i.e., RID is cheaper to use than prescription-only Kwell).”

Finally, the treatment procedure is very simple: Apply RID for 10 minutes to the infested area, then wash thoroughly with soap and warm water. Comb the hair in the previously infested area with a fine-toothed comb (provided in the RID package) to remove dead lice and their eggs. Do not exceed two consecutive applications within 24 hours. However, it is generally recommended that crab lice be treated twice, at an interval of 7-10 days, so that if there are any newly hatched parasites, they will be killed by the second application of RID. Change and wash in very hot water all

clothing, undergarments, bedding, pajamas or nightgowns, towels, etc. and dry them in a hot dryer for at least 20 minutes. Vacuuming the mattress, upholstered furniture and rugs and scrubbing the toilet seat is also recommended. Inspect all household members regularly for at least 2 weeks and treat them also if a new lice infestation develops. Notify any sex partners you have had within the last month. Whether or not they have evidence of active infection, the Center for Disease Control recommends that they be treated immediately.

There are two generally recommended methods of treatment for lice: a prescription-only lotion (or shampoo) whose main ingredient is 1% gamma benzene hexachloride, also known as lindane, and marketed under the brand name of Kwell, and over-the-counter, non-prescription medications whose major ingredient is pyrethrin compounds. Several brand names are on the market, including A-200 and RID (distributed by Pfizer, Inc.). A-200 contains .165% pyrethrins. RID, on the other hand, has twice as much of this active ingredient (.3% pyrethrins), and the package also comes with a fine-toothed comb to help remove dead lice and their eggs and a booklet on the prevention and treatment of lice (two items not supplied with A-200). RID is also the only non-prescription product for lice treatment whose safety and effectiveness in lice control has been documented in four separate clinical studies.

Crabs are not about to go away. But they are not considered dangerous or health-threatening in most cases. They are very uncomfortable, however, the itching they produce can be quite maddening, and most people prefer to eradicate them immediately upon discovery. There is no immunity from crab lice. Future infestations can occur at any time. For most sexually active gay men, having a bottle of RID on hand in the medicine cabinet is an inexpensive and advisable precaution.

Counselor Training Program Begins Nov. 22

Mattachine will be starting the next series of counselor training sessions on November 22, 1981.

The sessions are 3 hours each in duration and continue for 10 weeks. There will be Sundays off for the holidays that fall within the session. Just what days they will be taken off, either before or after the holiday, will be decided by the group after it is formed.

These programs are offered periodically by Mattachine as a service to the gay community. You DO NOT have to become a Gay Hotline worker after you complete the course. However, it is necessary to complete this course before working on the Hotline.

Many people take the course to help with their own feelings and views, and to help deal with problems that they have in their lives.

The sessions consist of role playing, sensitivity exercises, discussions of people's feelings and much more. Everyone that participates plays a role in the progression of the groups through various topics that affect us all.

If you are interested, call the Hotline at 881-5335 for further details. The first session will be held on Sunday November 22 from 1-4 p.m.

Pat Carroll

Continued from page 1

"Many of the 'minority' groups should work together for their benefit. Not in the strident ways of the sixties, but with actions that would speak louder than words. The spoken words are soon gone, but the concrete work stays and is better in the long run."

While in Buffalo, she visited many of the sights and attractions in the area. She went to Niagara Falls, the Albright-Knox to see some Matisse that the gallery has on display there. She also went to QRS Music Rolls one day. "I love to see 'one of a kind' things and that is one of them."

Buffalo's new life and spirit, spawned by the Talking Proud campaign impressed her very much. "You can just feel the spirit of renaissance here. It's not like so many other cities I have been to. There is a real desire to make the city come alive again. The theater district is a great idea. Very few cities have such a thing."

Her stay was a short one, but she did get out into the city and did meet some Buffalonians including a group of gays that attended the closing night performance. After the play she came out and talked with us briefly.

FF: How long do you see yourself in this role? Do you have any other plans?

Carroll: "I'll probably be in GS 3 forever. It is that type of role. I surely won't outgrow it age wise. It will always be here for me; a sense of security in my old age. However, I do have another one woman show in the wings. I hope to have it ready in about 2 years. It is about St. Teresa of Avila."

"Gertrude is playing the intellect of a great person; St. Teresa would be the human spirit. People don't really know what a strong and independent woman she was. I am doing research on her and once again find her to be a fascinating woman."

Gertrude Stein 3, the performance, was as enjoyable as the talk with Pat Carroll. It was a one woman show with a cast of hundreds. She mimicked, mimed and transformed herself into her brother, Leo; Picasso's wife; and countless others. One came to feel that we knew all of these people, as well as Gertrude herself.

She took the audience through laughter, anger and bravado, either real or imagined, as far as the traffic of the Stein household in Paris came and went. Old friends became older and sometimes didn't remain so friendly, and new ones joined the ranks. The name dropping painted as colorful a tapestry of personalities as any Matisse or Picasso.

"Alice" never makes an appearance, she is upstairs sleeping away a rainy day, but she weaves her way through Gertrude's thoughts. "I wonder if Alice is up yet," is a recurring line that keeps her 'friend' on stage most of the play.

It is true that there is no direct mention of the relationship, but it isn't really missed. It really shows that gays do think of more than just sex and their lover. Both are a part of their life, but not their entire existence.

There is a record out of the play, as well as a script. Both of these would be valuable as there are so many wonderful lines that could be used at cocktail parties to liven up the crowd. One particular one regarding Isadora Duncan and her demise is priceless. It went something like, "her and her scarves. Affectations can be deadly."

The crowd on closing night still had the coughers present, but they were not very evident. One gentleman became a part of the play when he blew his nose in a quiet memento and Gertrude threw him a look that would've killed.

It was a chance to see a play that has been critically acclaimed all over the country, and soon to be all over the world, and anyone who missed it really was the loser.

And anyone that doesn't get to meet Pat Carroll in person has missed an experience, too. This review started out saying she was "three times a lady," and this is true. First as a performer that gives her all on stage; secondly as a human being that has concerns for her fellows in the same sphere of experience as herself; and thirdly, as someone who will always have time to meet and talk with her fans. And as time goes on, I'm sure that circle will continue to grow.

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Out and About

Devo: New Wave Arrives
In Buffalo's Shea's

BY HANFORD SEARL

Devo
Shea's Buffalo Theatre
October 25
Tickets: \$8.50, \$7.50 (Festival East & 97
Rock)
Rating: Three Bells

Rating:

Since this is *The Fifth Freedom*, designating our rights to love and be loved as gay men and lesbian women, all concert reviews, LP write-ups, art gallery evaluations of exhibits and so on will be code-rated by Freedom Bells.

On a scale of one-to-five bells, the lowest ranking will be a half bell standing for worse than poor while five bells will ring out perfection.

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It was an odd mix of new wave, pulsating rock and spacey jazz elements as guitars grinded for superiority over Moog synthesizers throughout the 90-minute plus, 20-song set.

Integrating wild lighting and bizarre, multi-faceted staging, Devo's visual impact nearly camouflaged the five-member bands' bonafide musicianship blurred by excessive loudness which unfortunately raxored the relevant but weird lyric messages.

A lengthy, prepackaged video segment bogged down the show's eventual, frantic pace composed of both old and new film stagings of familiar Devo hits, from the strange med school "Jocko Homo" to latest gang-athem like "Through Being Cool."

Interestingly enough, as typical of many new wave bands, Devo, while belittling the chauvenistic male stigma of being "macho" on "Jocko Homo," reinforces the dominant male sexuality in the "Whip It" video sequence when a hot-looking cowpoke supposedly balls a cross-eyed oriental cowgirl as a Was-pish cowgirl cheers "Ridem, cowboy!"

And the group asks the eager-to-answer fans, "Are We Not Men?," they reply, "We Are Devo!" Thus denying the old male way but encouraging gender confusion. Definitely there's more here than meets the eye.

That aside, the boys from Akron, Ohio aggressively launched into their audio assault, dividing the barrage into two distinctive sections, the first flourish featuring newer hits.

Maniacally-guided by lead vocalist, synthesist Mark Mothersbaugh, the Warner Bros. recording artists scored such highlights as million-seller, rocker "Whip It," a live version of "Being Cool" and pulsating version of "The Girl You Want."

Staged by Pro Scenery of Los Angeles, the first half set reproduced Devo's latest LP release cover, "New Traditionalists" with its striking Parthenon structure.

Lead guitarist Bob Mothersbaugh, Bob Casale on keys and guitar as well as bass guitarist Jerry Casale, romped, jumped and pranced on treadmills amid blinding light bursts and patterns accentuating drummer Alan Myers' punctuating rhythms.

Stripped to bare neon essentials, the two-story frame revealed theatrical potential which allowed Mark, though stricken with a viral infection, to cavort, and pull himself along to heighten dramatic statement in the show's second half.

Rockers "Gut Feeling," "Smart Patrol" combined with "Mr. DNA" and encore, haunting ballad "Beautiful World" were the memorable musical moments here.

Co-inciding with the two-part staging, Devo changed from more to most bizarre outfits, forsaking para-military, grey safari khaki with bright blue neck scarves and black, plastic hairpieces for T-shirts, bermuda shorts and knee stockings with knee pads.

(Who ever said GQ doesn't have an impact on world fashion?)

The knee pads of course were to protect Mothersbaugh from sustaining bloody caps. God knows they'd be worn out by the end of this 10-week, 43 U.S. city tour. And they only were into two weeks of all this bizuness!

Another encore, a new wave-rock version of classic "Working In A Coal Mine" found on the "Heavy Metal" sound-track, silhouetted the five Devites in flashlight head gear piercing, like their bone-marrow cringing

volumn, through fog and blue lighting.

A reworked Stones hit, "Satisfaction," played during the much too lengthy video segment, like "Beautiful World," possesses commercial gold potential, even if "Satisfaction" is found on an earlier LP release. Both melodies remain with you.

Mark returns as Boogie Boy, yet another 1950'ish, surrealistic pop art, cartoon-like character so prevalently found in Devo's stylish mix of de-evolution and tomorrowland spectrumness.

His tenor falsetto, carried over wireless mike as he's playing a shoulder-strapped, portable keyboard, underscores harmonic/conflicting moods from that of blissful apathy to hatred, violence and nuclear war.

But that only reinforces Devo's enigmatic posturing, at one time seemingly the worst form of music industry gimmickery inherent in new wave bands to a deeply, profound musical message.

No doubt Australia and New Zealand will be as perplexed and entertained by the rightful heirs to new waves' title as most novel, energetic band when they tour there this January and February.

As for us in the gay community of Buffalo, we have been weaned and warned about the ninnies and the twits of the world.

Beware!

Concert calendar, art galleries et al: (* denotes don't miss)

Festival East: Nov. 11, *Earth, Wind & Fire, the Aud, 8 p.m., \$10.50 and \$9.50; also Nov. 11, Frank Zappa, Shea's Buffalo, 7:30 and 10:30 p.m., \$10.50 and \$9.50; Nov. 27, *Greg Lake of Emerson, Lake & Palmer, Shea's Buffalo, 8 p.m., \$8.50 and \$7.50.

Harvey & Corky Productions: Nov. 1, Steve Hackett, formerly of Genesis, Uncle Sam's, 9 p.m., \$6.97 and \$5.97; Nov. 3-8, *Neil Simon's "They're Playing Our Song," Shea's Buffalo, 8 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 6 and 10 p.m. Sat. and 2 and 7 p.m. Sun., \$10-\$17; Nov. 7, Triumph, the Aud, 7:30 p.m., \$9.50 and \$8.50.

Albright-Knox Art Gallery: Nov. 21-Jan 3, "The World of Donald Evans," water colors; Joseph Piccillo's drawings on canvas and paper; "Figures, Forms & Expressions" in cooperation with Hallwalls and Cepa Gallery at 700 Main St., featuring 15 artists. Gallery hours 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues., 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Wed.

noon-5 p.m. Sundays. Voluntary donations requested at the door, memberships available for gift shop discounts, special showings, etc.

The Buffalo Philharmonic: Nov. 7, 8:30 p.m., Courier-Express Discovery Series/Symphony; Nov. 8, 2:30 p.m., Julius Rudel conducts Wagner, Samuel, Ravel and Shostakovich works, \$10.50, \$8.50, \$7 and \$4.50; Nov. 11, Jamestown-Southwestern H.S., 8 p.m., conductor Semyon Bychkov in program and prices tba; Nov. 12, 8:15 p.m., Canisius College, Bychkov, program tba, \$6 and \$3 students and children, others call 883-7000, ext. 685; Nov. 13, 8:30 p.m., *Pops concert with Cab Calloway, \$8.50, \$7.50 and \$6.50; Nov. 19, 3 p.m., SUNY Amherst campus, Rudel with program and prices tba; Nov. 20, 9:30 p.m., open recital at \$3, Nov. 21, 8:30 p.m., Symphony and Nov. 24, 8:30 p.m., conductor Irwin Hoffman and violinist Charles Haupt play Berlioz, Mozart and Tchaikovsky, \$10.50, \$8.50, \$7 and \$4.50; Nov. 27, 8:30 p.m., *Pops concert with Carmine Coppola conducting his Oscar-winning film music, \$8.50, \$7.50 and \$6.50; Nov. 28, 2:30 p.m., Fisher-Price Children's Series and Sesame Street's Mr. Bob, Bob McGrath, who sings and entertains, \$5 adults, \$4 kids. All concerts are at Kleinhans Music Hall unless otherwise noted.

QRS Arts Foundation Concerts: Nov. 12, 8:30 p.m., Kleinhans Music Hall, *The Lublin Polish Folk Festival, \$7-10.

Gay Rights Bill to Be Re-introduced

Washington, D.C.—Senator Paul Tsongas (D-MA) has re-introduced his legislation to prohibit employment discrimination against gay men and lesbians, according to the Gay Rights National Lobby. GRNL worked closely with Senator Tsongas' Office on re-introduction and expanding co-sponsorship for the measure. Those efforts are apparently successful, as this year's bill, S. 1708, already has secured twice as many sponsors as it had in the 96th Congress—a real shock in the Senate, which has moved sharply to the right.

The new co-sponsors of the legislation are Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA), and Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI). They join Tsongas and Senators Lowell Weicker (R-CT), Robert Packwood (R-OR), and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY).

Kerry Woodward, who is both the Regional Field Director for GRNL and the Co-Chair of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (a national PAC to raise funds for supporters of lesbian/gay civil rights) noted that several co-sponsors of S. 1708 are facing re-election in 1982. Weicker, Kennedy, and Moynihan all could face difficult re-election campaigns. Woodward pointed out that each co-sponsored with the full knowledge that the issue could be used against them. She went on to urge that lesbians and gay men remember these political courageous acts at election time.

Although the bill will no doubt be politically controversial, it is, by most objective standards, a moderate bill. It simply prohibits discrimination in employment based on the irrelevant factor of "sexual orientation." It specifically addresses opponents' contentions that it is somehow a "special privileges" bill by spelling out that quotas are not to be used. GRNL Director Steve Endean indicated that no hearings on the legislation are anticipated because hostile Committee Chairmen could be expected to "stack the deck" with negative testimony.

The Rev. Troy Perry, Founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and a member of GRNL's Executive Committee, expressed satisfaction about the re-introduction of the bill and its expanded co-sponsorship, "We are gratified at the progress we've made on this important legislation. S.1708 can serve as an important symbol—to our community, to our friends, and even to our opponents—that we will not step back from our quest for basic social justice. While we no doubt will suffer short-term defeats, we are prepared for the long struggle. Our dream of nationwide fair employment legislation shall prevail!"

Gay Rights National Lobby urged supporters of lesbian/gay civil rights to write to their Senators, urging support and co-sponsorship of S.1708. They may write their Senator c/o Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. GRNL also urged gay rights supporters to express their appreciation to the seven current co-sponsors. Those needing additional information may contact GRNL by calling (202) 546-1801.

Gay Activists Alliance Folds In New York City

On October 13, 1981, members of the Gay Activists Alliance, Inc., in New York City met and voted formally to disband the organization. Citing the failure of new activists to come forward to take over their work within the framework of the organization's single-issue constitution, the lack of community support for a broad-based organization that championed specially oppressed minorities (transvestites, proponents of S & M, prostitutes) within the gay community, and their own personal commitments to work for gay liberation in different contexts, the members chose to disband formally rather than have the organization survive in a moribund state with the possibility that other groups or individuals might attempt to appropriate the name and use it for their own purposes.

Founded on December 22, 1969 in the wake of the Stonewall riot, GAA quickly became the premier organization of the gay liberation movement in the United States and in the first years of its existence set much of the tone and style of the movement, producing the lambda, a chemical symbol for interaction, as a symbol for gay liberation, and popularizing the 'clone' look as a counter to traditional stereotypical images of gays. From May 1971 the organization occupied a recycled firehouse at 99 Wooster Street in Soho, where it staged a series of weekly dances at a time when same-sex dancing was virtually impossible anywhere else in public, dances that provided a substantial income for GAA's ambitious programs and that ultimately were to become prototypes for the gay disco scene across the country. GAA kept its membership of up to 600 busy on some twenty-one committees that monitored media, lobbied city, state and federal governments, produced social and arts programs, sent speakers to schools and colleges, and helped forge a national movement by developing contacts with other gay groups around the world. In the early 70s, GAA was prodigal with its resources and talents and helped to organize many gay organizations around the country, several of which still bear the name Gay Activists Alliance, usually with the city or state appended to it. In addition, the vast majority of gay organizations in New York City are children, step-children, or grandchildren of GAA, having been founded by former GAA members for specialized purposes, sometimes in reaction against GAA itself.

In October 1976 a fire gutted the third-floor offices at the firehouse and the group was evicted. The fire was undoubtedly arson, but the perpetrators and their motives have never been uncovered. Deprived of its building and the substantial income produced by the dances, GAA was forced to cut back many of its activities and its membership decreased. The organization continued, however, to serve as a left-wing gadfly for the gay movement in New York, insisting on raising for discussion such embarrassing questions at those of transgenerational sex, support for gay male and lesbian prostitutes, and the place of transvestites within the movement.

In recent years the group found itself increasingly isolated from the mainstream gay movement because of its refusal to work within the straight political system of political parties and a lack of support for the extra-political demonstrations, zaps, and other actions it had staged so successfully in the past. Its quarterly newspaper, *The Gay Activist*, ceased publication in June 1980, although it participated informally in several demonstrations after that and produced a discussion forum for Gay Pride Week 1981.

Members requested that all organizational records of GAA be deposited with International Gay History Archive, Box 2, Village Station, New York 10014, and that the name Gay Activists Alliance not be revived by any new group.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT JOHN HAMMOND (212) 473-5884.

GRNL'S Constituent Lobby In Operation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Coming off a stinging defeat on D.C.'s consenting adults provisions, the Gay Rights National Lobby has stepped up its activities to ensure constituent pressure for lesbian/gay civil rights with plans for "NATIONAL CONSTITUENT LOBBY MONTH" in December of this year. The Lobby today announced that it has already secured almost 35 State Coordinators for this exciting project. The project, the most ambitious such constituent effort ever organized in the lesbian/gay community, is being coordinated by Susan F. Green, GRNL's Legislative Assistant for Community Mobilization, and Kerry Woodward, GRNL's West Coast Regional Field Director.

The purpose of "National Constituent Lobby Month" is to secure direct meetings between lesbians, gay men, and their supporters and their Representatives and Senators on a host of gay-related issues. The meetings, which will take place in the home districts, will focus on the Family Protection Act, the National Gay Rights Bills (H.R. 1454, S. 1708), the immigration legislation, and a variety of anticipated anti-gay amendments.

With almost 35 State Coordinators already, GRNL is ahead of its timetable. State Coordinators will, in turn, identify Congressional District Coordinators in as many districts as possible, with the meetings to occur when the Representatives and Senators are back home.

The Constituent Lobby period, which was originally expected to be the end of November and beginning of December, has now been expanded to the entire month of December to conform with the apparent decision of Congressional leaders to not adjourn until sometime in December.

Susan F. Green, who is charged with overall success of the venture, said, "We are extremely excited about this effort. It gives gay men and lesbians all over the country an excellent opportunity to be involved in the national political process and to affect bills like the Family Protection Act without coming to Washington, D.C." Green went on to point out that the "Meeting-in-the-District" feature should guarantee far more meetings and constituent pressure than the Constituent Lobbying Day after the March on Washington.

Constituent lobbyists will be armed with a lobbying kit from GRNL which includes profiles on their Representatives and Senators, background on the legislation to be discussed and a legislative bulletin on constituent lobby meetings.

Bruce Voeller, President of the Mariposa Education and Research Foundation and a long-time Board member of Gay Rights National Lobby, expressed delight at the undertaking, saying, "This is an incredibly important project which can show legislators that there are gay people in their districts who care about their stands on these issues. The project is also important to lesbians and gay men in demonstrating to them that they can impact (control) these public policies on their lives."

Voeller went on, "I'm sure that this can lay the groundwork for crucial ongoing constituent pressure for a long time to come."

GRNL urges those interested in participating in the project in their own area to contact Susan Green at P.O. Box 1892, Washington, D.C. 20013, or by calling (202) 546-1801.

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SElections by Sam

"About Sex And Tolstoy" (?)

By SAM

The newspaper advertisement for Let My People Come" declares it is "a musical about sex." Having recently seen the musical during its long run in Toronto, the ad now reminds me of an old story.

It seems that a young man had just completed a speed reading course, and was putting his lessons into practice by reading Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. As a friend saw him quickly flipping through the pages of the book, he asked the "reader" what the book was about. "Russia," was the speed reader's response.

To say that Earl Wilson, Jr.'s musical is about sex (my emphasis, SEL) is to miss the point. The two act presentation is a *WONDERFUL CELEBRATION* of sex. Presented in cabaret-style, the audience did not have printed programs to reference song titles, and my recent visit to a record shop here in Buffalo did not produce an album although it has been in stock, and has apparently been back-ordered. Thus I am not sure of any titles, but the messages and images are still clear.

Non-stop fun in dialogue and song provide a fast-paced couple of hours punctuated by practically total nudity. (The performers do wear sock-like slippers to meet Toronto's legal requirements). And, I will confess, anticipated of total male nudity was one of the motivating factors in my going to see the show. I was not disappointed. My one apprehension about taking in the musical had been that it might be strictly

heterosexual, and I did not think I wanted to spend very much money on a program with that emphasis, which accordingly might even be negative toward homosexuality. But my partner and I placed our reservations, made the trek "T O," and we enjoyed ourselves immensely.

Just about all varieties of sexual experience were acknowledged in one form or another by the attractive performers, three men and four women. My partner and I particularly enjoyed the "I'm Gay" duet tenderly sung by two men, both of whom were writing "coming out" letters to their respective parents. The feature of this musical number we appreciated most was that the two men apparently were coming out to their loved ones in the context of being in love with each other, similar to what my partner and I experienced five years ago.

Another song minimized the shock value of "Dirty Words" by making the silliest rhymes centering around Anglo-Saxon "vulgarisms." Throughout this number the singers ask their listeners to consider just what it is that makes a word "dirty" when inherently that just cannot be. I am convinced that any rational thinker would have to agree with the lyricist, but whoever said most people are rational?

The musical number that I find myself talking about the most to both gay and non-gay friends is one noting that "I've Finally Learned That When My Body Talks to Me, I Listen." What a wonderful

message. One can hear those words in terms of holistic health, total self-awareness, primal therapy, etc. It is a message that as gay men and lesbians we have heard and responded to by acknowledging the sensations of excitement and arousal directed by an encounter with or even thoughts about someone the same sex as ourselves, sensations which apparently were untaught and unlearned. They are sensations which simply are. And once we have learned to use those sensations satisfactorily for self and our sexual partners, that is cause for celebration.

The young performers mingled freely with the audience even before they began the show as well as at intermission and when their presentation was concluded. Throughout, it seemed to me that they and their piano accompanist were all enjoying what they were doing, and their enthusiasm and celebration spilled over into their audience. All in all, it is a good show—one you should try to see and experience, and CELEBRATE.

Koop In Line For Surgeon General

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Labor and Human Resources Committee of the United States Senate, chaired by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), has recommended the nomination of Dr. C. Everett Koop to the office of Surgeon General to the full Senate for their confirmation.

The Committee voted on President Reagan's controversial appointment on October 28th, and the 11-5 outcome virtually eliminated all suspense concerning Koop's chances of defeat for the appointment. Opponents of the nomination now fear quick and overwhelming approval by the Senate, virtually guaranteeing his appointment.

Koop, who has "distinguished" himself in the medical community by his vehement attacks on gay people and feminists as "anti-family" forces, had been opposed for the sensitive position of the nation's highest ranking medical authority by a number of groups. The Gay Rights National Lobby cited Dr. Koop's repeated negative statements about lesbians and gay men as more than enough reason for the Lobby's opposition to his nomination. The implications of those statements—ranging from the anti-gay immigration ban to the effect disease problems—could have a major impact on the way that gay people are treated by government agencies and programs under the Surgeon General's administration.

According to Meryl Friedman, a GRNL Board member, the Lobby's effort against the Koop nomination primarily took two forms: (1) Testimony by Dr. Walter Lear of the National Gay Health Coalition before the House subcommittee considering the nomination last

spring, and (2) Constituent pressure on selected members of the Senate Committee.

GRNL also worked closely with the American Public Health Association, the professional association which represents public health workers across the nation, as well as a variety of other health and women's organizations to oppose Koop's nomination. APHA's opposition to Koop, based both on his lack of public health experience and his intolerance, marks the first time in more than 100 years that this prestigious has opposed a nominee for Surgeon General.

Susan F. Green, newly-appointed GRNL Legislative Assistant for Coalition Building, appeared upbeat and positive despite the Committee setback. "While it now seems likely that C. Everett Koop will be confirmed, we've demonstrated our intention to play a role in the decisions affecting our lives," she said. "And we've begun to build some important coalitions that will be essential to our eventual success."

In spite of the Committee vote, GRNL is urging supporters of lesbian and gay rights to write their Senators and Representatives at once urging opposition to Dr. Koop's nomination to the position of Surgeon General based on his intolerance for a variety of groups as well as his lack of public health experience. "If the Koop nomination becomes a referendum on abortion and homosexuality, he will surely be confirmed," Executive Director Steve Endean pointed out. "The fact that the Surgeon General of the United States should have at least a modicum of public health background should be a factor in our behalf."

Delaware and North Street: Hustlers or Gays?

Recently there has been some press about the goings on at the corner of Delaware and North. Every time it is mentioned the two words that always come up are "gay" and "prostitutes."

The police, area residents and Delaware District Councilman Marcy have all said there are gay prostitutes hanging around there. Marcy even claims he was approached and was told that for \$10 the guy would perform a sexual act.

The point that should be made is that NO ONE has proved that these men that hang around doing this sort of thing, and boys too, are indeed gay. Just ask all the business men that go to the baths and tea rooms.

Granted, there may be some of these people that do think of themselves as gay, but they really are not in the main stream of Buffalo's gay populace, but then who is? We may all prostitute ourselves at the bars whenever we go there and think nothing of it.

Most of those found there are hustlers. Nothing more, nothing less. All of the other

corners in the area are taken by the hookers and are doing a booming business, both in their profession and in robbery.

The emphasis is being placed on the apparent gay aspect of this corner, because the only thing "they" hate more than a prostitute is a homosexual.

We feel it is unfair to place this much emphasis on one aspect of the prostitution problem. We are against all prostitutes and the crime that accompanies their presence.

Mattachine is not trying to get the anti-loitering law revoked to allow this type of behavior, there are laws that cover the acts of prostitution and they should be enforced. We do not object to these laws. They are necessary at this time and should be used.

Perhaps it's time for the gays to voice their objections to this one-sided attack on prostitution and let people realize that "gay" and "prostitute" are not synonymous in this situation.

Councilman Marcy's telephone number is 855-5155. Call and let him know how you feel.

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The Aural Column

Searching For Truth
In A World Of Hype

By JOE SCHUDER II

"There comes a time in the affairs of men, my dear Blubber, when we must take the bull by the tail and face the situation."

—W.C. Fields

The astute reader of this column will have noticed something different beginning with the August edition. I began signing my full name instead of using just "Joe."

It was another way of stepping up out of the darkness — out of the closet. Though I consulted with several people about its pro's and con's — how it might affect my personal and professional life — the final decision was solely mine. I decided the bullshit was going to stop. Now.

I am pleased to relate to you that the response has been purely positive; both from straight friends and family, and from my friends in the Gay Community.

I recommend closet-exiting to you all. It is a liberating experience which will gain you greater self esteem. And the surer you are about yourself, the more supportive and understanding other people in your life will be.

I have heard some negative comments about the current legal battle that the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier is engaged in to have the New York State anti-loitering statute declared unconstitutional. They seem to be centered around such feelings as "You're getting people angry" or "Don't make waves — we've got all the freedom we need" ad others.

The fact is that to face the truth takes courage. We should honor these people who have put their careers and reputations on the line. They are fighting for what rightfully belongs to all of us — freedom and truth.

So how does all this relate to audio? The audio industry is ripe with hype. If we are truthful in our dealings with others, we should expect manufacturers, dealers and service people to treat us honestly too.

Having been an active audiophile since the age of fourteen, I have been constantly exposed to countless claims that "This speaker (amplifier, cartridge or what have you) is THE FINAL SOLUTION to achieving ultimate realism in sound reproduction."

ITEM: 1965 Empire Scientific Corp. ad in Hi Fi/Stereo

Review: "Engineered to outperform any other speaker system. Truly the ultimate in sound..."

ITEM: 1969 Pickering ad in High Fidelity: "...a cartridge that could recreate the exact nuances that distinguish the bass drum from the largest kettledrum. We call this achievement '100% Percussion power.'" (Remember the Pucker-Power mouthwash commercials?)

ITEM: 1981 Electro-Voice ad in Stereo Review: "There is no true accuracy without high efficiency. The 'Power War' is over."

The italics in these examples are mine. On them and in countless others, we are expected to be naive enough to think that one small group of engineers or Philosopher-Admen has found the final answer to a given problem. The book is closed. The classic solution beyond which there does not exist even the remotest possibility for a better solution. Has any one found the ultimate lover?

Audiophiles - Practitioners are in probably on of the disciplines that attempts most closely to mirror life itself—should be aware that there will always be a better way to approach some specific problem.

Progress simply does not stop. I can think of only one loudspeaker designer, Paul W. Klipsch, who has most probably achieved one of the classic cabinet designs: the Folded Corner Horn. His design follows "The immutable laws of physics." "The grand piano has only one physical shape." (His words.)

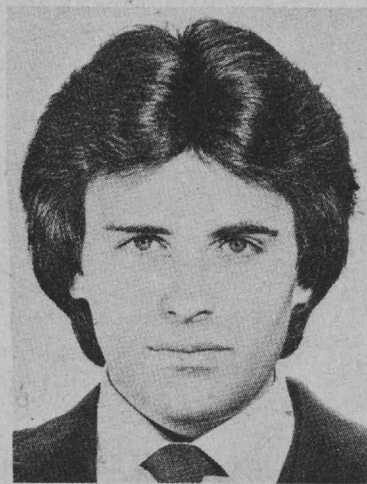
I have extensively auditioned this speaker. It is not the ultimate. The ultimate is the actual performance. The Klipschorn is close. But so is the KLH-6, The original Advent, and most recently the AR-9 and the McIntosh XRT-20.

It is easy to recognize hype for the come-on that it is. Avoid dogmatic statements. "Any other" speaker system? Sorry, no. "Exact nuances?" "The ultimate in sound?" Beethoven was deaf. Listen to what he heard: "No true accuracy without high efficiency?" Amplifier power may have a bearing on this, but to say that ANY struggle is over is an untruth.

We know this. It is our life-mission to avoid the simple answer-in aural experiences and others. The ultimate goals in our lives are unattainable. But we will all die in our own ways if we abandon the search for the closest approach to these goals. If we must use an absolute word, let it be NEVER. May we NEVER stop trying.

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The Media Watch

Gays Making Headlines In All The Media

By ROD HENSEL

From the movies, to the newspapers, to the stage, Gays were making media attention last month. Some selected samples of what's been going on:

MAKING LOVE

You no doubt remember the great Gay controversy stirred up by the making of the movie "Cruising." Similar protests occurred when the Village People filmed a financial flop with only oblique references to a Gay theme.

In fact, Hollywood has yet to make the first definitive film that deals openly and honestly with homosexuality, and author Vito Russo outlines that history well in a new book called "The Celluloid Closet."

But the latest chapter in that history is about to be written, and Russo previewed it last month in Esquire magazine.

Due out now is a film called "Partners," a Paramount pictures comedy with Ryan O'Neal and John Hurt as cops who pose as a Gay couple to help stop the killings of homosexuals. By all accounts, the movie is sort of like "Cruising" with a punch line and does little to promote a positive view of Gays.

But "Making Love" is a new effort from 20th Century Fox due out in early Winter. It stars Michael Ontkean, Harry Hamlin and Kate Jackson in a major film that ends with a guy stealing the guy from the girl. "If things work out as the filmmakers have planned," writes Russo in Esquire, "Making Love" may well become the 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' of gay rights."

In the film, Ontkean is married to Jackson, and their eight year marriage is

on the rocks when he falls in love with Hamlin. The director is Arthur Hiller, the man who did "Love Story," and the writer is Barry Sandler ("Gable and Lombardi") who used the film as his professional coming out.

The set was closed during the filming of Ontkean and Hamlin's love scene. "Hiller went pretty far, further than I thought he'd go," according to Sandler. "They undress each other and kiss. The make love. Of course there's enough footage so that if we have to pull something out we can. I mean, if they run screaming from the theater in Omaha."

In keeping with Hollywood homophobia, Fox is claiming that it is not a film about homosexuality, it's a love story. And there is some question about how Gays will see the film with some already claiming that it strives to be so inoffensive it is offensive. What it really is will be up to you, and everyone else, to judge.

MAKING COMMENTS

Elsewhere in this issue of the FIFTH FREEDOM you'll find an interview with actress Pat Carroll and a review of her one person show "Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein."

A gay person seeing the show would find it impossible not to link most of the dialogue and the talk of dealing with identity as related to Gertrude Stein's homosexuality and her lesbian relationship with Alice B. Toklas.

But it was apparently all over the head of the Courier-Express' reviewer Doug Smith, better known as "The Cheap Gourmet." He refers to the show as "GS3" and, in his review, says "it tastefully avoids dwelling on the relationship between Ms. Stein and Alice B. Toklas."

He goes on: "Cheers to GS3 playwright Marty Martin for eschewing the irrelevant prying which could have turned his play into a lost generation US magazine profile."

While the Courier's reviewer obviously doesn't see what he doesn't want to look for, John Dwyer, critic for the Buffalo News, had a different view. "The Martin script," he wrote, "also has a rather antiseptic and quite unnecessarily obscured view of the frankly intense and long-faithful lesbian relationship between Gertrude Stein and the remarkable, self-effacing Alice B. Toklas."

It appears at any rate that the significance of Gertrude Stein's homosexuality isn't lost on Pat Carroll. She not only gave this paper a two hour interview, but also took the time to personally meet Mattachine members after her final performance in Buffalo.

MAKING CONTROVERSY

Pete Hamill is a syndicated writer whose column appears in the Courier. On October 7, he wrote a column on Mary Morgan, an openly gay woman who was recently appointed to the San Francisco Municipal Court.

In an interview after the appointment, Judge Morgan made the following quote: "Being a lesbian is just one part of who I am. I know lots of heterosexuals and I don't define them totally by their heterosexuality. It obviously should be the same with gay people (here she laughed), even if we do have better taste and more fun."

Those last few words set Hamill rambling through an entire column. I don't agree with all he said, but think the comments he made were thought provoking, and here are some excerpts:

"Among the homosexuals I have known over the years, including several who are good friends, 'fun' always had a

sexual component. Not many heterosexuals define themselves by their sexual preference, many homosexuals do."

"...It seems to me the gay world is more promiscuous than the straight world. But is promiscuity fun? Everyone of my gay friends is in agony most of the time. That agony comes from romance. Not from love. From love. They 'fall in love' once a month; they meet new people, embrace and part, and the resulting agony is terrible."

"...Do gay people have more taste than straight people? Of course not. There are some gay people with more taste than some straight people and vice versa. I've met gay people with exquisite taste; I've met many who are aesthetic morons. Disco was the ugliest, most tasteless music to arrive on the pop scene in decades. Gays loved it."

"...It is true that many young homosexuals pay more attention to their bodies than heterosexuals do; they diet, job, work out, stay in shape. But that isn't proof of superiority; it is just an elaboration of an obsession with surfaces and the creation of illusions. The gay young man as sex object is not an example of superior taste or greater fun, nor a simple parody of the heterosexual sex object; he is a monument to that terminal narcissism that frequently poses as sexuality. And like everything fraudulent, it is essentially comical. I wonder if I missed Mary Morgan's point. She might have been practicing irony."

Any comments?

MAKING NEWS

Two news stories were carried recently by Associated Press and appeared in the Courier-Express.

The first involves 46-year-old Harold C. Lyon, the man in charge of the U.S. Education Department's programs for gifted and talented children. He was arrested in Arlington, Va. after he allegedly accepted \$200 to perform a sex act on a male vice squad officer.

The police say they have been investigating organized prostitution and that Lyon had 75 letters from people who had responded to ads he allegedly placed in a sexually oriented magazine. Lyon, an attorney, has denied the charges.

In Los Angeles, William Bonin has gone on trial on charges of being the "Freeway Killer" who murdered 12 young men and boys and dumped their nude bodies near Southern California freeways.

Bonin, if guilty, certainly deserves to be brought to trial. Whether or not Lyon, if guilty, was doing anything wrong is a debatable point. The point is however that once again these often seem to be the only stories concerning homosexuality that hit print. It projects an unsavory view of Gays (i.e. they are all prostitutes and homosexuals) because over a range of time there is no balance. And that long range impression provides the kind of fertile soil in which the hate thinking of groups like the Moral Majority can take root.

MAKING ME SICK

OK, OK, I know I shouldn't read the National Enquirer. I know I've ranted and raved about the trash they print before. But...

The headline in their October 6 issue reads "JAMES BOND BEAUTY USED TO BE A BOY." It's the story of Caroline Cossey, a transsexual who won a role in the film. She is featured in a bikini in giant half page photo.

"The biggest shocker in the new James Bond thriller 'For Your Eyes Only' is that one of the curvaceous bikini-clad beauties in the film used to be a man!" the Enquirer screams.

The rag went to all the trouble of tracking down Caroline's hometown in England, having a reporter interview a mailman and a pub owner, and coming up with the "proof" that Caroline used to be Barry. The Enquirer can't believe

Caroline looks so good and has made a career for herself as a top fashion model "and has even been photographed topless!"

Well so what? Caroline deserves praise for making it in a tough competitive field, and for surviving the kind of mental anguish a transsexual so often suffers. She does not deserve to have her privacy invaded and her life so trashily sensationalized.

The problem is not a remote one. Here in Buffalo, it occupies a large portion of the calls on the Mattachine Hotline. Yet too many gays are insensitive to the problems of both transsexuals and transvestites. We laugh at them as much as the straights—and shame on the gay bar owners here who ban them from their establishments for wearing drag.

These people go through intense personal struggles and hardship just to be themselves—a struggle that all of us as gay people should be able to identify with. For their courage, they deserve admiration and respect.

When we join in (or initiate) the jokes about them, when we deride them or refuse to talk or associate with them, we sink personally to the level of publications like the National Enquirer.

Thinking about our own prejudices isn't easy, but it is part of the journey of life. As Gertrude Stein would have remarked: "Identity Always."

Bed-By-The-Bay: A Place To Stay In The SF Area

A group in San Francisco, California has announced a business enterprise to serve the entire Gay Community. It is similar to the traditional bed-and-breakfast circuit that has been so popular throughout Europe and which is quickly gaining renown in the United States.

Bed-By-The-Bay is a bed-and-breakfast agency that places San Francisco visitors in private Gay homes, thus providing comfortable lodgings with gracious hosts. Accommodations are located throughout the city, but most are within close proximity to the Gay districts.

The rates, as low as \$23.00 per day, might include a Continental-style breakfast or kitchen privileges, laundry facilities, garage, private bath, etc.

Don Stanke is the Business Manager of Bed-By-The-Bay, who sees the agency as an alternative to hotels. "Most hotels just do not provide the home atmosphere that we offer," he says. "The Gay Community of San Francisco has become internationally known as the 'hospitality capitol of the Gay world'; our service is simply an extension of that hospitality. Our affordable single and double accommodations are ideal for that budgeted vacation—that long Holiday weekend—or for projected participation in the festivities that will surround the Gay Olympics scheduled to meet in San Francisco beginning August 28, 1982. It is never too early to plan ahead."

Bed-By-The-Bay responds to all inquiries by mail or telephone and screens hosts as well as guests, both as a security measure and as a means to matching guests with appropriate hosts and accommodations.

For complete information and full details, write: Bed-By-The-Bay, P.O. Box 902, Sausalito, California 94966. Or telephone: 415-383-7430; 415-453-6405; or 415-334-7262.

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SUNSHINE HOUSE CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER: 831-3646. Assists persons having emotional, family and drug related problems. Emergency outreach services, information and referral. Emergency overnight housing. Open 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

PUBLICATIONS

THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Tel: 881-5335. Volunteers needed to work on paper, including writers, artists, graphics people and photographers. Press releases, public notices and articles for publication may be submitted to the above address. Published the first week of each month. Advertising rates on request.

ORGANIZATIONS

MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Tel: 881-5335. Meetings held first and third Sundays of each month, Unitarian Universalist Church, Elmwood at West Ferry. Pot luck supper at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. All welcome.

GAY PROFESSIONALS, P.O. Box 624, Buffalo, New York 14209. Tel: Tom Hammond, 842-2750. An organization to provide support for gay people in the professions and those who seek a confidential place to meet new friends. Open to all gay men and women.

A.A. FOR GAY MEN AND WOMEN, Tel: 853-0388. Meets twice-a-week: Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., Shoreline Apts., 210 Niagara; Fridays, 8:30 p.m., Ascension Church, corner Linwood and North. For phone contact, call above number and ask for a member of the gay group, or write: Open Mind Group, P.O. Box 395, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION FOR GAY EXPRESSION (SAGE), 118 Cassety Hall, State University College at Buffalo, 1300 Elmwood Ave. Tel: 878-6316. Organization for gay men and women at Buffalo State College. Office hours Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business meetings, Wednesday Noon to 2 p.m.

GAY RIGHTS FOR OLDER WOMEN, Tel: 836-8970. Contact the Emma Bookstore at the above telephone number for additional details.

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (GPA), 311 Squire Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo, 3435 Main St. Office hours Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sponsors coffee house each Friday at 9 p.m. in 107 Townsend Hall (when school is in session). Formerly the Gay Liberation-Front.

U.B. MEN'S CENTER, 211 Townsend Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo, 3435 Main Street. A drop-in center for all gay, bi-sexual and straight men. The center is open Monday-Friday from Noon to 5 p.m.

DIGNITY/BUFFALO, P.O. Box 75, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Tel: 874-4139. An organization for gay Catholics and Christians.

NICKEL CITY LEATHER/LEVI CLUB, P.O. Box 897 Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York. Contact the above for further information about the group.

COUNTRY FRIENDS, P.O. Box 106, Clarence Center, N.Y. 14032. Gay women's social group which meets outside city. Women of all ages welcome.

GAY AWARENESS ORGANIZATION (GAO) State University of New York at Fredonia, Fredonia, New York 14063. An organization for gay and bisexual students, faculty, staff and area residents. Meets Sundays 5 p.m., Room S-125 Campus Center.

NEW YORK STATE GAY/LESBIAN CONFERENCE, SYRACUSE CHAPTER. Meeting second Thursday every month. Visitors welcome. For further information, telephone (315) 475-6866, (8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays) or write: P.O. Box 92, Syracuse. N.Y. 13201.

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ME AND MY ARROW, 274 Delaware Ave., Buffalo. Tel. 856-3291.

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EMMA FEMINIST BOOKSTORE, 2474 Main St., Buffalo, New York (at Greenfield St.). Tel: 836-8970. Feminist and gay books.

MARRAKESH, 140 Allen St., Buffalo, N.Y. Tel: 882-8200. Gayellow Page directories, gay periodicals, lambda jewelry.

TALKING LEAVES, 3144 Main St., Buffalo, N.Y. Tel 837-8554. Christopher Street, The Advocate, Gay Community News, Body Politic, R.F.D., Gay Left, Outcome, Achilles Heel, Gay Insurgent. Gay novels and periodicals.

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CLUB AMHERST, 44 Almeda St., Amherst. Tel: 835-6711.

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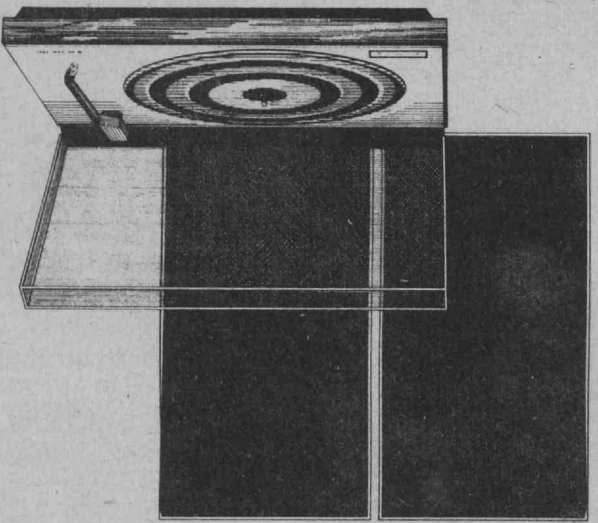


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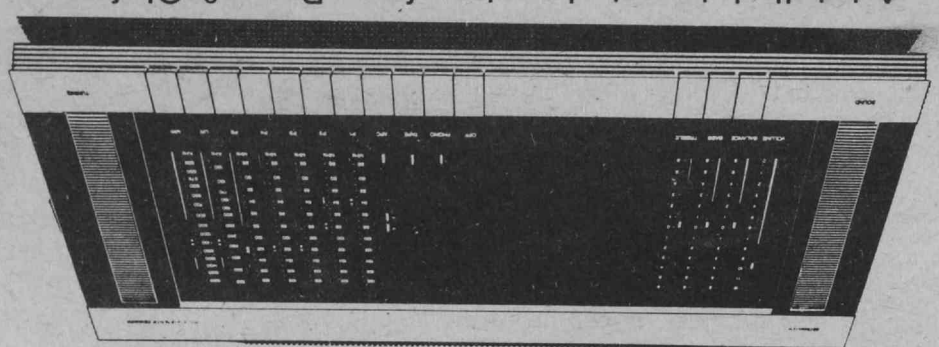
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